

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA
CHARLOTTE DIVISION

3:07-cr-196

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

vs.

TIMOTHY HOUSTON

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ORDER

THIS MATTER is before the Court upon motions of the defendant for a reduction of sentence based on the retroactive amendments to the United States Sentencing Guidelines relating to crack cocaine triggered by the Fair Sentencing Act of 2010 (Doc. Nos. 36, 38), which the government has not opposed.

The defendant pled guilty to possessing at least 5 grams of cocaine base, along with marijuana, with intent to distribute (Count One). (Doc. No. 27: Judgment). He also pled guilty to possessing a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking offense (Count Four). (Id.). At sentencing, the Court determined that the marijuana equivalency for the offense was 1,215 kilograms. (Doc. No. 28: Statement of Reasons (SOR) at 1; Doc. No. 24: Presentence Report (PSR) at ¶ 16). The resulting offense level of 30 was reduced by 3 for acceptance of responsibility. (Doc. No. 24: PSR at ¶ 23). Combined with a criminal history category of III, the resulting advisory guideline range was 87-108 months. (Doc. No. 28: SOR at 1). The Court imposed a sentence of 87 months, the low end of the range, plus 60 months for the 18 U.S.C. § 924(c) violation. (Doc. No. 27: Judgment at 2).

Under the most recent amendments to the guidelines, the advisory guideline range, given the factors applied at the original sentencing hearing, is 60-71 months. USSG Supp. to Appx. C., Amend. 750 (2011); USSG §5G1.1. It appears that the defendant has satisfied the low end of that

range, (Doc. No. 37: Supplement to PSR at 1), and the Court may not reduce the sentence to less than what he has already served, USSG §1B1.10(b)(2)(C).

Consistent with 18 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(2), the Court has considered the factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a), as well as the defendant's post-sentence conduct and the public's safety. Based on these factors, the Court finds that a reduction of the defendant's sentence would accomplish the goals of sentencing.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED that the defendant's motions for sentence reduction (Doc. Nos. 36, 38) are **GRANTED** and the defendant's sentence for Count One is reduced to the time served. All other conditions remain unchanged.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, if the defendant is released from imprisonment without a residential plan accepted by the United States Probation Office, the defendant shall submit to the local Residential Reentry Center for a period not to exceed 90 days, with work release, at the direction of the U.S. Probation Office, as a condition of supervised release.

The Clerk is directed to certify copies of this Order to the defendant, the Federal Defender, the United States Attorney, the United States Marshals Service, and the United States Probation Office.

Signed: September 4, 2012



Robert J. Conrad, Jr.
Chief United States District Judge

